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Operations and Services

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Weather Forecast Office Hydrologic Products Specification, NWSI 10-922

WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS

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1. Introduction. The purpose of this supplement is to provide regional guidance for weather forecast office hydrologic products. This supplement establishes consistent use of Universal Geographic Code types for Central Region weather forecast offices disseminating hydrologic products; designates the correct product identifier to be used for issuing the text version of the monthly Advance Hydrologic Prediction Service probabilistic information; and clarifies the use of the word “advisory” in Flood Statements.

2. Universal Geographic Code (UGC). Weather forecast office hydrologic products will contain a UGC. UGCs are 4 character (alpha-numeric) code based on a state and county or a state and zone (sub-county). Details are found in NWSI 10-1702. Table (1.) below indicates the appropriate type of UGC code to use with the corresponding hydrologic product.

Table (1.)

<u>Product Name</u>	<u>PID</u>	<u>UGC Type</u>
Hydrologic Outlook	ESF	county code
Flood Watch	FFA	zone code
Flash Flood Warning	FFW	county code
Flash Flood Statement	FFS	county code
Flood Warning	FLW	county code
Flood Statement	FLS	county code
Hydrologic Statement	RVS	county code
Hydrologic Summary	RVA	county code
Daily River and Lake Summary	RVD	county code

3. Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) vs Flood Watch (FFA). A flood watch (FFA) should be issued if the flooding is expected in the first 36 hours of the forecast period where the QPF contains a high degree of uncertainty (low-confidence in QPF based RFC forecast guidance) and a warning is premature. A Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) should be issued if the flooding is expected beyond 36 hours. The RFC forecast guidance and information about the confidence of the precipitation forecast should be included in the product issued.

4. Hydrologic Outlook (ESF). The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) probabilistic text product associated with the monthly AHPS probabilistic graphics will be sent out under the Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) product identifier and MND header.

5. Flood Warnings (FLW). Flood warnings (FLW) are issued when flooding is expected more than 6 hours after the causative event. FLWs are issued for a river forecast point if the stage of the river at that point is forecast to rise to or exceed a WFO determined warning criteria. FLWs can be issued when time to flood is 36 hours or more in the future and monitoring and prediction tools and/or River Forecast Center (RFC) guidance indicates flooding is likely. Reference 4.5.4.a in NWSI 10-922. FLWs may also be issued for areas along rivers and streams and for counties or parts of counties.

The headline of the FLW shall contain the category of flooding expected at river forecast points (i.e., minor, moderate, major, or record flooding - for definitions see NWSI 10-950). However, the inclusion of flood categories in headlines of areal FLWs is optional. Flood categories for a reach of river are defined at a river forecast point based on river stages at the gage. For areal flood warnings, flood categories might not apply beyond the reach of a river forecast point or outside the river's flood plain. Reference 4.5.5.a in NWSI 10-922.

A FLW will be issued when the magnitude of the flood crest forecast changes category (e.g. moderate to major). For categorical definitions see NWSI 10-950. Reference 4.5.4.e in NWSI 10-922.

6. Flood Statements (FLS). FLSs are used to send out supplemental information on flood watches and warnings. The FLS may also be issued to provide information on elevated stream or river levels, or ponding of water in urban areas, which warrant public notification but not a warning. Therefore, FLSs may be issued for elevated stream conditions, or until the river is forecast to rise to or exceed WFO determined warning criteria. Reference 4.6 in NWSI 10-922.

Although the word "advisory" is not allowed in a MND header, WFOs have the option to use the word "advisory" in FLS headlines.

7. Hydrologic Statements (RVS). RVSs may be issued to inform the public, customer, and partners of elevated stream or river levels that are below flood stage. Reference 4.7 in NWSI 10-922.

8. Tabular data in hydrologic products. Procedures are available within AWIPS and WHFS to properly format tabular data for broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio. The WFOs shall use these procedures when issuing text products with tabular data. Reference NWSI 10-1710.

